

residue containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms and the three R' groups being the same or different, provided that when a plurality of R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> groups occur, they may be the same or different; Y represents a hydroxyl group or a hydrolyzable group, provided that when a plurality of Y groups occur, they may be the same or different; a represents 0, 1, 2 or 3, b represents 0, 1 or 2, and m represents an integer of 0 to 19, provided that the condition a + mb ≥ 1 should be satisfied;

HO-R<sup>6</sup>— (8)

HO-R<sup>7</sup>-O— (9)

HO-R<sup>7</sup>-OC(O) — (10)

HO-R<sup>7</sup>C(O)O— (11)

HO-R<sup>7</sup>-OC(O)O— (12)

wherein R<sup>6</sup> represents an alkylene group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an arylene group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkylene group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms, which may contain one or more ether bonds; and R<sup>7</sup> represents an alkylene group containing 1 to 20 carbon atoms, an arylene group containing 6 to 20 carbon atoms or an aralkylene group containing 7 to 20 carbon atoms, and may contain one or more ether bonds; and said vinyl polymer being obtained by polymerization of a monomer containing at least one member selected from the group consisting of a (meth)acrylic monomer, a styrenic monomer and a nitrile-containing vinyl monomer.

b 17. (Amended) The polymer according to claim 13, wherein its main chain is a (meth)acrylic polymer.

20. (Amended) The polymer according to claim 13 as produced by converting a terminal halogen group of the halogen-terminated vinyl polymer to a crosslinking silyl containing substituent or a hydroxyl-containing substituent.

b 3 21. (Amended) The crosslinking silyl-terminated vinyl polymer according to claim 13, wherein Y in general formula (1) is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl, alkoxy, ketoximate, amino, amido, aminoxy, mercapto or alkenyloxy group, provided that when a plurality of Y groups occur, they may be the same or different with each other.

Please add new claims 24 and 25 as follows: